NOTE XIV.

ON THREE SPECIES OF THE COLEOPTEROUS GENUS HELOTA

BY

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Helota lugubris Rits. ♀.

No doubt the female *Helota* from Lakhon (Siam) in the Paris Museum, determined by me in 1897 [1]) as *Helota Vandepolli* Rits., is a female specimen of the recently described *Helota lugubris* from Laos (see page 57 of this volume).

The quoted ♀, which is now before me and which measures 12 mm. in length, agrees with the ♂ of *lugubris* except in the following points, which certainly are sexual differences.

Elytra. The apices are not broadly conjointly rounded but bluntly pointed and more widely dehiscent at the suture. The angular notches on the outer margin of the apical fourth are less deep. The apical portion of the 6th interstice is not strongly raised and therefore not conspicuous.

Abdomen. The apex of the last ventral segment is broadly rounded; the surface of this segment is flat, if not faintly concave.

Legs. The anterior tibiae are almost straight, the posterior femora straight, the posterior tibiae without tuft of hairs at the end.

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[1]) Bull. Mus. d'hist. nat. 1897, p. 287, no. 2.

Helota acutipennis, n. sp. ♀.

Very much resembling *Helota Lesnei* Rits., but recognizable by the fulvous coloured anterior angles of the pronotum and by the otherwise coloured tibiae, these having the base and the apical half black, whereas in *Lesnei* the tibiae are black at the base and provided with a dark fuscous ring just behind the middle. Moreover the apices of the elytra are narrowly prolonged and acutely pointed, in *Lesnei* ♀ not prolonged and bluntly pointed. The coloration of the undersurface is also different.

Length 10 mm. — Above dark coppery, the anterior angles of the pronotum testaceous; opaque in consequence of a very dense, minute punctuation, the punctures equal in size on the head, pronotum and elytra; provided on the elytra with numerous glossy coppery black warts or tubercles of different size and shape; an ill-defined dull black longitudinal spot on the basal half of each elytron, surrounding the anterior flavous spot. The two basal joints and the club of the antennae pale testaceous, the other joints pitchy brown. Underneath the head (except the throat) is brassy; the middle of the prosternum dark fulvous with a metallic hue, the lateral portions (except the fulvous front angles) dark bronze; the middle of the mesosternum dark fulvous with a metallic hue; the middle of the metasternum pale fulvous, the sides brassy; the abdomen pale fulvous; the elytral epipleurae dark bronze. The coxae brassy; the trochanters black; the femora pale fulvous, their apical portion brassy; the tibiae black at the base and their apical half black; the only present tarsus (that of the left foreleg) dark pitchy, the base of the clawjoint and the claws themselves pale fulvous.

The head is very densely punctured, finest on the middle of the narrowed front portion where it is subshining; an indistinct V-shaped figure, composed of small granules, is present between the eyes and preceded by some other indistinct unevennesses.

The prothorax agrees pretty well with that of *Lesnei*, but the crenulations of the lateral edges are more irregular; the scutellum agrees with that of *Lesnei.*

The elytra are subparallel and end each in a narrow pointed prolongation; these prolongations are dehiscent and provided with a raised keel; the lateral margins of the elytra are minutely notched at the basal and apical third. The sculpturing of the elytra agrees pretty well with that of *Lesnei*, but the glossy warts are less numerous, and those on the middle portion larger.

The undersurface of the head (with the exception of the throat) is rather sparingly covered with very distinct punctures; on the lateral portions of the prosternum the punctures are larger and on the sides of the middle portion smaller; the middle of the meso- and metasternum is almost impunctate, the brassy lateral portions are distinctly punctured. On the ventral segments a very minute, though distinct, punctuation is present. The last ventral segment is strongly transverse, and deeply notched in the middle at the hind margin; at both sides of the notch the hindmargin is concave, which makes the angles at the open side of the notch subacute and slightly prominent; at both sides of the top of the notch a shallow rounded impression is to be seen [1]).

The metallic coloured apical portion of the femora is densely punctured, the tibiae are very finely and rather remotely punctured, and distinctly constricted at the upperside just before the apex.

Hab. Yunnam-Sen. — The above described specimen has been communicated to me by Mr. A. Grouvelle and belongs to the Natural History Museum at Paris.

Helota epipleuralis, n. sp. ♂.

A small species (7 mm. long) which, with the aid of my Synopsis [1]), prooves to come nearest to *Helota curvipes* Oberth. The latter is however much larger and differs in many other important points.

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[1] In *Lesnei* ♀ the apical margin of the last ventral segment is regularly rounded, not concave at both sides of the notch; the notch itself is horseshoe-shaped, and the open side is narrowed by two slightly oblique small callosities.

Subshining; above dark bronze; the middle of the anterior margin and the whole basal margin of the pronotum, the basal margin of the elytra and the scutellum bright green, the sutural interstices tinged with green; the antennae rufous, the basal joint with a bright green spot, the apex of the club infuscate; the anterior angles of the pronotum fulvous; the elytra provided with four small yellowish spots, the anterior pair placed between the 4th and 6th, the posterior pair between the 3rd and 6th striae. The colour of the undersurface is reddish testaceous, with the exception of the head without the throat and the elytral epipleurae which are bronze green; the legs are reddish testaceous, with the apex of the femora and the entire tibiae and tarsi bronze green.

The head is broad, not strongly produced in front of the eyes and densely covered with a minute punctuation; on the raised portion between the eyes the punctures are larger and wider apart; the clypeus is truncate anteriorly, the lateral angles rounded.

Prothorax subtransverse, a trifle broader than the elytra, slightly narrowing in faintly curved sides which are very minutely crenulated; the front angles are scarcely protruding; the base bisinuate, the lateral angles acute, the middle lobe broadly rounded; the uppersurface densely covered with strong punctures, which come extremely close together towards the sides, so as to make the punctuation somewhat reticulate; along the middle of the basal half (in front of the scutellum) the punctures are almost absent; a distinct, strongly punctate impression on both sides of the middle lobe. The scutellum is strongly transverse, glossy and impunctate.

Elytra subparallel, slightly narrowing towards the end, the apices separately subtruncate in a slightly oblique

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1) Notes Leyd. Mus. Vol. XIII, p. 223.

direction and narrowly dehiscent. The lateral margin of the posterior third very minutely and remotely serrulated, Each elytron has ten regular striae of punctures which become larger and deeper towards the lateral margins; the interstices, which are almost imperceptibly punctured, become costate on the apical portion.

The undersurface of the head shows in the middle some large punctures, those on the sides are closer together; the prosternum and the sides of the metasternum are strongly punctured; the middle of the metasternum is glossy and nearly impunctate and provided in the middle-line with two impressions: one (punctiform) touching the frontmargin, the other (linear) on the basal half; the elytral epipleurae are punctured all along. The ventral segments are very minutely though distinctly punctured, more densely along the sides than along the middle; the apical segment is not quite as long as the two preceding segments together, the hindmargin is broadly truncate in a straight line, a large shallow impression in front of the truncation and as broad as it, reaching the hindmargin of the preceding segment; the impression very minutely punctured.

The metallic coloured parts of the legs very distinctly punctured. The tibiae of the forelegs are almost angularly curved about the middle but nearer to the apex and provided in the angle of the curvation with a small but distinct notch.

Hab. Tonkin. — The described specimen belongs to the Paris Museum and has been communicated to me by Mr. A. Grouvelle.

Leyden Museum, March 1914.